THE HOWES

There are difficulties in the way of tracing back this family to its English orgin. Tradition has to be largely relied upon, and this, as presented by different branches of the family, differs as to the first of the family that crossed the Atlantic, and as to the place of first settlement. One statement is that a Joseph How, belonged to a family of that name long doniciled in the state of Massachusetts, enlisted and served a a soldire in the French and Indian war in which he was supposed to have been lost, but afterward found in the New River Valley, where later he added the letter "e" to the name, the original spelling of the name being How, afterwards Howe. How much of this statement is correct cannot be determined. The author has chosen to follow copies of the "Howe MSS," furnished him by Hon. J. Hoge Tyler, late Governor of Virginia, who is a direct descendant to the Joseph Howe, a sketch of whose family here follows:

The Howe family, not unlike the Hoge family, with which it is so nearly related also commences with a little romantic episode in the lives of the first America representatives. Joseph Howe, and English gentlemen, first cousin of Lord Howe and General Wayne of Revolutionary fame, came to America in 1737. On board the vessel that brought him over was a beautiful and captivating girl by the name of Eleanor Dunbar, the tow young people fell in love with each other on the voyage and married soon after landing and settled near Boston, Mass.; from which point they drifted soughward and finally settled in the rugged regions of southwestern Virginia when the country was quite a trackless wilderness. They made their home on Back Creek as nearly as can be established in 1757 or 1758, and this old homestead, the scene of many pleasant revelries and charming reunions, is still in possession of one of the representative of the family, Mrs. Agnes Howe DeJarnette, a great-granddaughter of its founder. Joseph Howe had three sons, Joseph, John, and Daniel; of Joseph there is nothing know, he having left home in early life; John seems to have left no family.

Daniel was an officer in the Revolutionary war, was a man of strong mind and hight character. He married Nancy Haven and had three sons, Joseph H.; John Dunbar, and William H.; and seven daughters, Ruth, Julia, Eleanor, Elizabeth, Lucretia, Nancy and Luemma. Joseph married Margaret Freely; John D. married Sarah Sheppard; William married Mary Fisher; Ruth married Thomas Kirk, and removed to Missouri; Julia married Zecharia Cecil; Eleanor married General James Hoge; Elizabeth married Colonel George Neeley Pearis; Lucretia married Colonel William Thomas; Nancy married Honorable Harvey Deskins and Luemma married Dr. Jackson.

The children of Jeseph Howe and Margaret Feeley were: Eleanor, who married Reuben Sawere; Lucretia, who married Colonel William J. Jordan; Eliza, who married _____ Wassam; Brown, who married William G. Farris; Ollie, who married D. P. Watson; Sue, who never married.

The children of John Dunbar Howe and Sarah, his wife, are as follows: Margaret, who married George Shannon; Susan, who married J. M. Thomas; Eliza Jane, who married Charles J. Matthews; Ellen Mary, who married J. G. Kent; John T., who married Sallie DeJarnette; Samuel S., who died a prisoner of war at Point Lookout; Haven B., who married Captain E. G. Dejarnette and lived at the old place.

The children of William H. Howe and Mary Fisher Howe are: Belle, who married Dr. Charles Pepper; Lizzie, who married W. W. Minor; William G. who married Alice Brown, Augusta, who married Dr. Hufford; Sallie, who married Mr. Harmon; Alice, who married Charles Bumgardner; Ellie, who is unmarried. A daughter of Thomas Kirk and Ruth his wife, married a Mr. Perry.

The children of Julia Howe, who married Zecharia Cecil, are: Russell, Giles, Daniel R., Zecharia, and Nancy. The children of Eleanor, who married General James Hoge, are: Daniel, James, Joseph H., William, and Eliza, who married George Tyler, of Carolina, the father of Governor J. Hoge Tyler. The names of the children of Elizabeth, who married Colonel George N. Pearis, are as follows: George W. Pearis, Daniel H. Pearis, Nancy, who married Archer Edgar; Rebecca, who married George D. Hoge; Ardelia, who married Daniel R. Cecil; and Elizabeth, who married Benjamine White. The children of Lucretia, who married William Thomas, were Giles, William, Mary Anne, and Julia. Nancy, who married Harvey Deskins, had no children. The children of Luemma, who married Dr. Jackso are: Mollie, Sue, and Luemma.

John Howe, a son of the first Joseph and his wife Eleanor Dunbar Howe, was an active business man, engaged largely in the acquisition of wild land by survey and grant in the early years of the settlements along the tributaries of New River, in what is now Giles County, Virginia, and Mercer County, West Virginia. He made survey and obtained a grant for a tract of four hundred acres of land on Brush Creek, near where the village of Princeton is now located.

Major Daniel Howe, an officer in our war for independence, was often on detached service in search of Tories. The story is told that one John Haven, of Plum Creek, was suspected of being a Tory, and that Major Howe was sent on more than one occasion to arrest Haven, but was unable to do so, and that finally a pretty blackeyed daughter of Haven, whose name was Nancy, caught the Major and she became his wife, as already stated.

THE PEARIS FAMILY

The ancestors of this family were Huguenots, who fled from France, stopping temporarily in Barbadoes, thence about 1710, to South Carolina, locating on an island about five miles from Port Royal, to which they gave the name "Paris Island." This name is sometimes spelled "Pearris," again "Pearis"; and "Paris" the modern spelling being Pearis. The settler was Alexander Pearis (Parris), who became quite a distinguished man in the early days of the history of South Carolina.

Judge McGrady, in his History of South Carolina under the Proprietary Government, 1679-1719, gives considerable prominence to Col. Alexander Pearis, whom he shows to have been Commissioner of Free Schools, Commissioner for Building Churches, Member of House of Commons, of which Col. Wm. Rhett was Speaker; as a military officer and one of the Judges to try pirates, and as commander of militia in the Revolution of 1719. Col Alexander Pearis has a son, Alexander Pearis, Jr., had a son, John Alexander, who likewise had a son, John Alexander, as shown by his will probated August 1752. The last mentioned John Alexander had a son, Robert, who spelled his name as did his father, John Alexander "Pearis." This Robert Pearis died about 1761; he had a daughter, Malinda, who married Samuel Pepper, who removed to the New River Valley prior to 1770, and located at the place where, about 1780, he established a ferry, and which place has since been known as Peppers. His two brothers-in-law, George and Robert Alexander Pearis, sons of the preceding Robert, came with him, or about the same time. At the date of the coming of Pepper and the Pearises, in fact before that date, there lived in the neighborhood where Pepper located, a gentleman by the name of Joseph Howe, who had some pretty daughters, and it did not take long for these young Huguenots to fall in love with these girls, at least with two of them. An examination of the Pearis Bible discloses that George Pearis was born February 16, 1745, and was married to Eleanor Howe February 26th, 1771. Robert Alexander Pearis was probably two years younger than his brother, George. He married also a daughter of Joseph Howe, and about 1790 removed with his family to Kentucky and settled in what is now Bourbon County, and from whom it is said the town of Paris, in that county, is named. He had a son who in the early history of that state was a member of its Legislature. George Pearis remained in the vicinity of Pepper's Ferry until the spring of 1782; prior to this time he had been made a Captain of one of the militia companies of the County of Montgomery.

On the advance of the British army into the Carolinas, in the fall of 1780, there was a Tory uprising in Surry County, North Carolinia, os such formidable proportion as to impel Gen. Martin Armstrong, comanding that military district, to call on Major Joseph Cloyd of Montgomery County militia, to aid in its suppression. About the last day of October, 1780, Major Cloyd with three companies of mounted men, one of which was commanded by Capt. George Pearis, marched to the State of North Carolina, where he was joined by some of the militia of that state, augumenting his force to about 160 men, with which he on the 14th day of the month, attacted the Tories at Shallow Ford of the Yodkin, defeating them with a loss of fifteen killed and a number wounded; Maj. Cloyd had one killed and a few wounded, among them Capt. Pearis, severely, through the shoulder. This fight cleared the way for the crossing of Gen. Green's army at this ford, which the Tories were seeking to obstruct. Capt. Pearis returned home wounded, and in addition to his suffering from his wound he had the misfortune to lose his wife by death in a few days after his return, she dying on November 14th. Capt. Pearis's wound disabled him from performing further military service,

and having purchased from Capt. Wm. Ingles, about the year of 1779, for seventy pounds sterling (about $350.00) the tract of 204 acres of land on New River - whereon is now situated Pearisburg Station on the line of the Norfolk & Western Railway, and which land was known for years as the Hale and Charleston tracts - he, in the spring of 1782, removed thereto, erected his dwelling house at a point nearly due south of the residence of Mr. Edward C. Hale, and a little to the southwest of where the road from Mr. Hale's house united with the turnpike. Two or three years after Capt. Pearis made his location, he had a ferry established across the New River, and kept a small stock of goods, and later kept public entertainment. On October 5th, 1784, he married Rebecca Clay, daughter of Mitchell Clay. The children of Capt. Pearis and his wife Rebecca Clay Pearis were: George N., Alexander, Samuel Pepper, Charles Lewis; their daughters: Rebecca, Julia, Rhoda, Sallie and Eleanor.

Col. George N. Pearis married Elizabeth Howe, daughter of Major Daniel Howe; Alexander Pearis married Miss Arbuckle of Greenbrier County; Samuel Pepper Pearis married Rebecca Chapman, daughter of Issac and Elian Johnston Chapman; Charles Lewis Pearis married Margaret Peck, daughter of John and Elizabeth Snidow Peck; Rebecca married John Brown, they went to Texas about 1836, leaving a son, George Pearis Brown, who lived for a number of years in Mercer County; Julia married Col. Garland Gerald; Rhoda married Col. John B. George; Sallie married Baldwin L. Sission, and Eleanor married Capt. Thomas J. George.

The children of Col. George N. Pearis and his wife, Elizabeth Howe Pearis, were Capt. George W., who never married, died in 1898 at the age of nearly eighty-nine years; Col. Daniel Howe, who married Louisa A. Johnston; Rebecca, who married George D. Hoge; Nancy, who married Archer Edgar; Ardelian, who married Daniel R. Cecil, and Elizabeth, who married Benjamin White. Robert Alexander Pearis and his wife had no children, and after the death of said Robert Alexander, his widow married Col. McClung.

The children of Col. Garland Gerald and Julia Pearis Gerald, his wife, were: sons, Thomas, Robert Pearis, Garland T.; a daughter Rebecca, married Dr. Edwin Grant; Louisa married James M. Cunningham; Mary married _____; Fannie married a Mr. Yost; Virginia died in Texas, unmarried; Ophelia, married _____.

The children of Col. John B. George and Rhoda Pearis George were: George Pearis George, who married Sarah A. Davidson; Jane, who married Judge Sterling F. Watts. The names of the children of Capt. Thomas J. George and his wife are as follows, viz: A. P. G. George, W. L. George, Robert, and John; the daughters: Larissa, who married Jacob A. Peck; Matilda, who married a Mr. Austin, and Rebecca, who married George W. Jarrell.

Charles Lewis Pearis and his wife, Margaret Peck Pearis, had but one child, a daughter, Electra, who married Dr. Charles W. Pearis, and they had no children.

As already stated, John Brown and family went to Texas prior to 1836; some of his older sons were soldiers in the Texan army. Brown settled in that part of the state that became Collin County. George Pearis Brown, the son of John, remained in Virginia, he married a Miss Mahood, and he and his wife left numerous decendants, among them the wife of Mr. Robert Sanders, the wife of Edward A. Oney, the wife of M. W. Robert Sanders, the wife of Edward A. Oney, the wife of M. W. Winfree, a son, Cornelius, who was killed on the retreat of

Confederates from the battlefield at Clark's house, May 1st, 1862.

The elder Colonel George Pearis, the settler, was long a magistrate of Montgomery and Giles Counties, and sat in the courts of both counties and was for a term the Presiding Magistrate of the latter county. The first court of the County of Gives was held in a house belonging to him and the land for the county buildings and town was given by him and the town of Pearisburg took its name from him. He died on November 4th, 1810, and his ashes repose in the burying ground on the farm on which he died, on the hill just southwest of Pearisburg Station. His widow married Phillip Peters and she died April 15th, 1844.

THE HOWES

There are difficulties in the way of tracing back this family to its English orgin. Tradition has to be largely relied upon, and this, as presented by different branches of the family, differs as to the first of the family that crossed the Alantic, and as to the place of first settlement. One statement is that a Joseph How, belonged to a family of that name long doniciled in the state of Massachusetts, enlisted and served as a soldier in the French and Indian war in which he was supposed to have been lost, but afterwards found in the New River Valley, where later he added the letter "e" to the name, the original spelling of the name being How, afterwards Howe. How much of this statement is correct cannot be determined. The author has chosen to follow copies of the "Howe MSS," furnished him by Hon. J. Hoge Tyler, late Governor of Virginia, who is a direct descendant to the Joseph Howe, a sketch of whose family here follows:

The Howe family, not unlike the Hoge family, with which it is so nearly related, also commences with a little romantic episode in the lives of the first American representatives. Joseph Howe, an English gentleman, first cousin of Lord Howe and General Wayne of Revolutionary fame, came to America in 1737. On board the vessel that brought him over was a beautiful and captivating girl by the name of Eleanor Dunbar; the two young people fell in love with each other on the voyage and married soon after landing and settled near Boston, Mass.; from which point they drifted southward and finally settled in the rugged regions of southwestern Virginia when the country was quite a trackless wilderness. They made their home on Back Creek as nearly as can be established, in 1757 or 1758, and this old homestead, the scene of many pleasant revelries and charming reunions, is still in possession of one of the representatives of the family, Mrs. Agnes Howe DeJarnette, a great-granddaughter of its founder. Joseph Howe had three sons, Joseph, John, and Daniel; of Joseph there is nothing known, he having left home in early life; John seems to have left no family.

Daniel was an officer in the Revolutionary war, was a man of strong mind and high character. He married Nancy Haven and had three sons, Joseph H.; John Dunbar, and William H.; and seven daughters, Ruth, Julia, Eleanor, Elizabeth, Lucretia, Nancy and Luemma. Joseph married Margaret Freely; John D. married Sarah Sheppard; William married Mary Fisher; Ruth married Thomas Kirk, and removed to Missouri; Julia married Zecharia Cecil; Eleanor married General James Hoge; Elizabeth married Colonel George Neeley Pearis; Lucretia married Colonel William Thomas; Nancy married Honorable Harvey Deskins; and Luemma married Dr. Jackson.

The children of Joseph Howe and Margaret Feely were: Eleanor, who married Reuben Sawere; Lucretia, who married Colonel William J. Jordan; Eliza, who married -------- Wassam; Brown, who married William G. Farris; Ollie, who married D. P. Watson; Sue, who never married.

The children of John Dunbar Howe and Sarah, his wife, are as follows: Margaret, who married George Shannon; Susan, who married J. M. Thomas; Eliza Jane, who married Charles J. Matthews; Ellen Mary, who married J. G. Kent; John T., who married Sallie DeJarnette; Samuel S., who died a prisoner of war at Point Lookout; Haven B., who married Captain E. G. DeJarnette and lived at the old place.

The children of William H. Howe and Mary Fisher Howe are: Belle, who married Dr. Charles Pepper; Lizzie, who married W. W. Minor; William G. who married Alice Brown, Augusta, who married Dr. Hufford; Sallie, who married Mr. Harmon; Alice, who married Charles Bumgardner; Ellie, who is unmarried. A daughter of Thomas Kirk and Ruth his wife, married a Mr. Perry.

The children of Julia Howe, who married Zecharia Cecil, are: Russell, Giles, Daniel R., Zecharia, and Nancy. The children of Eleanor, who married General James Hoge, are: Daniel, James, Joseph H., William, and Eliza, who married George Tyler, of Carolina, the father of Governor J. Hoge Tyler. The names of the children of Elizabeth, who married Colonel George N. Pearis, are as follows: George W. Pearis, Daniel H. Pearis, Nancy, who married Archer Edgar; Rebecca, who married George D. Hoge; Ardelia, who married Daniel R. Cecil; and Elizabeth, who married Benjamine White. The children of Lucretia, who married William Thomas, were Giles, William, Mary Anne, and Julia. Nancy, who married Harvey Deskins, had no children. The children of Luemma, who married Dr. Jackson are: Mollie, Sue, and Luemma.

John Howe, a son of the first Joseph and his wife Eleanor Dunbar Howe, was an active business man, engaged largely in the acquisition of wild land by survey and grant in the early years of the settlements along the tributaries of New River, in what is now Giles County, Virginia, and Mercer County, West Virginia. He made survey and obtained a grant for a tract of four hundred acres of land on Brush Creek, near where the village of Princeton is now located.

Major Daniel Howe, an officer in our war for independence, was often on detached service in search of Tories. The story is told that one John Haven, of Plum Creek, was suspected of being a Tory, and that Major Howe was sent on more than one occasion to arrest Haven, but was unable to do so, and that finally a pretty blackeyed daughter of Haven, whose name was Nancy, caught the Major and she became his wife, as already stated.